

58844.US

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method of forming an electrically conductive via, the method comprising the steps of:
forming a first electrically conductive layer,
forming a second layer on the first layer, the second layer having desired barrier
5 layer properties,
forming a third non electrically conductive layer on the second layer,
etching a via hole through the third layer, the via hole having sidewalls and a
bottom, thereby exposing a portion of the second layer at the bottom of the
via hole,
10 redistributing the exposed portion of the second layer at the bottom of the via hole
so that at least a portion of the second layer is removed from the bottom of
the via hole and deposited on lower portions of the sidewalls of the via
hole, and
forming a fourth electrically conductive layer within the via hole to form the
15 electrically conductive via.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first layer is formed of copper.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second layer is a cobalt tungsten
phosphorous alloy.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the third layer is a low k material.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the fourth layer is copper.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the via and the via hole have aspect
ratios that are at least two.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of etching the via hole and
redistributing the exposed portion of the second layer are accomplished with the
same process.

58844.US

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of etching the via hole comprises a sputter etch.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of etching the via hole comprises a wet etch.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of etching the via hole comprises a reactive ion etch.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of redistributing the exposed portion of the second layer comprises sputtering the second layer with a gas.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of redistributing the exposed portion of the second layer comprises sputtering the second layer with argon.
13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of redistributing the exposed portion of the second layer further comprises removing all of the second layer from the bottom of the via hole.
14. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a fifth layer of an electrically conductive material on the bottom and sidewalls of the via hole prior to the step of forming the fourth layer, where the fifth layer has desired barrier layer properties.
15. (original) A via formed by the method of claim 1.
16. (original) An integrated circuit, the improvement comprising a via formed by the method of claim 1.
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (cancelled)
20. (cancelled)